Start a Business Checklist

For assistance on these steps, see our [Starting Your Own Business: Step-By-Step Guide]

1. Research

2. Create a business plan and timeline

3. Get finances in order

4. Choose business structure

5. Register business name (and/or domain name)

6. Set up bank account & payment processing

7. Red tape: Licenses, permits insurance

8. Location / store front

9. Hiring

10. Promotion / Marketing

____ 1, Do market research

- Validate demand for your product by using the tips outlined in our article: [How to Test Demand For Your New Business Idea]

____ 2. Create a plan

- Use our one-page template here.
- For more guidance, see Step #3 in our Start Your Own Business Guide

___ 3. Get finances in order

- Create a budget For assistance see: How to Build and Use a Business Budget That's Useful All Year Long
- If you need financing, determine where you will get it from. We've prepared these resources for you:

  How to Run a Successful Crowdfunding Campaign

  Small Business Financing: What Options Are Available For Your Business?

  Most Useful Small Business Associations: Find Grants, Free Training, and More

  Small Business Financing: The Definitive Guide

  Grow Your Business: 32 Small Business Grants and How to Apply For Them

  The Veteran Small Business and Startup Funding Guide

___ 4. Choose business structure

- See: Business Structures: Which is Right For Your Startup?

___ 5. Register business name (and/or domain name)

- See Steps #6 and #7 in our Start Your Own Business Guide

___ 6. Set up business bank account (and payment processing if needed)

- See Steps #8 and #10 in our Start Your Own Business Guide

___ 7. Red tape: Licenses, permits, insurance

- See Step #9 in our Start Your Own Business Guide

___ 8. Location/storefront (for brick & mortar businesses)

___ 9. Hiring

- See: How to Outsource Boring Work Without Sacrificing Quality
- And: How to Hire a Professional Content Marketer For Your Business

___ 10. Create a Promotion/Marketing Plan

Consult these resources for assistance and ideas:

- How Email Marketing Software Can Help Grow Your Business
- How to Use Facebook Marketing For Your Small Business
- If you're planning a B2B business, you'll find the following helpful: How Your Small Business Can Sell to Big Companies

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